

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In view of the amendments, the claimed invention is novel and unobvious over the cited prior art of Harley, Elmore, Choo and Nakamura. No prior art was found that teaches or suggests a method for detecting and quantifying telomerase activity in a biological sample comprising the steps of adding the sample to a tube containing a first reaction mixture comprising a first primer and nucleoside triphosphates and a second reaction mixture comprising a second primer and a DNA polymerase, wherein the two reaction mixtures are separated by a wax layer, incubating the sample with the first reaction mixture under conditions for a telomerase to produce extension products having a telomeric repeat sequence at a 3' end of the first primer, elongating the extension product at the 3' end by template-independent polyadenylation or template-independent ligation, melting the wax layer to mix the extension product with the second reaction mixture, amplifying the elongated extension product using a real-time polymerase chain reaction under conditions that detect telomerase activity in a single 293T cell, and quantifying the amplified extension product using a control template.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-3320 and whose fax number is 571-273-3320. The examiner can normally be reached on 5 days, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David C Thomas/
Examiner, Art Unit 1637

/Kenneth R Horlick/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637